

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

**HON. VAN HILLEARY**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. HILLEARY. Mr. Chairman, I am amazed that the gentleman from Illinois is willing to offer an amendment that will not only directly affect the livelihood and well being of some 124,000 farms in 16 States, but also stop a program that has been benefiting all taxpayers by reducing the Federal deficit. This amendment doesn't affect the big tobacco companies as they might want you to think. It hurts the mom and pop American farmer. It unfairly discriminates against tobacco farmers by denying them access to Federal crop insurance. This is insurance that tobacco farmers have already paid millions of dollars for.

These folks aren't breaking the law and yet the proponents of this amendment would like to treat them like criminals. They want to deny them access to valuable government research, education, and extensions services. The same privileges that farmers of other legal crops all have access to.

These same proponents of this amendment say that these farmers should grow different crops. What they don't understand is in some of these areas tobacco is one of few crops that is capable of growing in their soil. That's why we have family traditions going from generation to generation of growing tobacco in these rural communities.

It's time we leave the small tobacco farmer alone and let them get on with making a living. This amendment is not going to stop one person from smoking, but it will hit rural communities across America with losses of thousands of jobs and dollars.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "no" on the Durbin amendment.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 1995*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives historic vote on the budget resolution sets the stage for congressional action to begin consideration of privatization of PBS. Far from spelling doom for Big Bird or the "MacNeil-Lehrer Newshour," the vote presents public broadcasting with vast opportunities to establish its independence from the Federal Government while preserving its traditional educational mission.

My good friend and colleague MIKE OXLEY—a member of the Commerce Committee—re-

cently stated that it was time for public broadcasting to look beyond its traditional reliance on Federal support for opportunities and alliances in the private sector. By doing so, public broadcasting can insulate itself from politics while securing a reliable and steady source of funding.

What are our options? Public broadcasting's value to viewers, and thus investors, is bound up in its noncommercial emotional identity. One of the most intriguing private sector solutions I have seen to date is the one suggested by our former colleague, Jack Kemp. In a recent Wall Street Journal article, Mr. Kemp called upon PBS to leverage the duplicate public broadcasting stations that exist in most major markets.

According to Mr. Kemp, PBS has 345 stations with sometimes as many as 4 or 5 serving the same market. By contrast, each of the 4 major commercial networks, ABC, NBC, CBS, and Fox have fewer than 225 apiece. By leveraging the commercial potential of its duplicate stations, Mr. Kemp suggests that public broadcasting could preserve the noncommercial, educational nature of the vast majority of its stations while creating a viable and secure source of private sector funding.

With some creative, market-oriented thinking, public broadcasting could be part of a new excitement, finding ways of satisfying the legion of devoted fans and lessen the dependence on the Federal dole. I call upon PBS and its supporters to work with Congress in identifying and developing the kinds of creative and innovative solutions that the new telecommunications market can provide.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see public broadcasting to do the things it does so well, especially the educational mission. But reliance on Federal funding will not keep the system viable. Public broadcasting needs new ideas and new alliances. The market is the place to find them.

IN PRAISE OF POSTAL WORKERS WHO HELP STAMP OUT HUNGER

**HON. TONY P. HALL**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 26, 1995*

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to praise the efforts of a prominent group of American workers who rarely receive the recognition they deserve—both as representatives of the Federal Government and as private citizens who contribute to their local communities.

These are the postal workers who touch each of our lives nearly every day. For many poor and elderly citizens especially, postal workers are the only representatives of the Federal Government that they see, and those citizens depend on the postal workers for contact with the world and many other needs.

But postal workers assist their communities in far more ways than just by delivering the mail. They volunteer their time and efforts in countless communities across the Nation to help those less fortunate than themselves. On May 13, 1995, the National Association of Letter Carriers [AFL-CIO], with the strong support of the U.S. Postal Service management, conducted a food drive for needy families throughout the Nation. On that day, U.S. Postal Serv-

ice letter carriers collected nonperishable food and canned goods from thousands of generous postal customers who left the food by their mail boxes. The collected food is distributed to hungry people through local food banks and emergency feeding centers.

The annual drive is timed for the second Saturday in May, which is a time of year when food pantries usually run low on donations. This is the third year the drive has been conducted nationwide.

Nationwide, the estimated total collected was more than 44.4 million pounds of food. This was far greater than last year's record total of 32 million pounds. More than 1,130 NALC local branches signed up for the drive, covering an estimated 5,000 to 10,000 communities in all 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

As chairman of the Democratic Task Force on Hunger and the former chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger, I have a strong interest in promoting efforts such as the postal workers' campaign to help the hungry. Furthermore, as the Representative from Dayton, OH, I want to call special attention to the postal workers in the city of Dayton who collected 167,000 pounds of food.

I am proud that I participated in the drive in my district. On May 13, I walked with Dayton Postmaster David Ashworth, letter carrier William Ernest, and Dan Grilliot, president of the Dayton branch of the National Association of Letter Carriers, as they collected food along a postal carrier route. We walked one of the routes in Centerville, OH, in my district.

I now offer praise to the National Association of Letter Carriers, the management of the U.S. Postal Service, and above all, to the men and women of the postal service who participated in this public spirited campaign to help the less fortunate in our communities.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1996

SPEECH OF

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 20, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1976) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong support for the amendment offered by Mr. DURBIN, our colleagues from Illinois. This amendment restores some sense of perspective to the Agriculture appropriations process, a sense of perspective that seems to be missing in the original language of the bill.

Let's clarify what's at stake here: The E. coli bacteria killed 500 people last year, and sickened over 20,000 more. Most of those killed were innocent children who are not alive today because the food they ate was inspected using practices that were first implemented over 90 years ago.